

Dunmow Rural District

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

J. HATTON

M.D., D.P.H.

FOR THE YEAR

1937

INCLUDING THE REPORT OF THE

Chief Sanitary Inspector



May & Brett, Printers, Dunmow.

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DUNMOW RURAL DISTRICT

Public Health Committee:

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 Col. T. Gibbons, D.S.O., D.L., J.P. (*ex-officio*).

Public Health Officers:

Medical Officer of Health:

J. Hatton, M.D., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector:

H. B. Gardner, Cert.R.San.I., S.I.E.J.B. Certificated Inspector
 of Meat and Other Foods.

Second Sanitary Inspector:

C. W. Glover, Cert.R.San.I., S.I.E.J.B. Certificated Inspector of
 Meat and Other Foods.

Temporary Housing Inspector:

C. H. Smith,

Clerk:

J. P. Burton.

Junior Clerk:

G. H. Mason.

Public Health Offices,
St. Peter's Close,
BRAINTREE.

June, 1938.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the Dunmow Rural District for the year 1937.

The health of the District has been good and the death rate low.

Progress has been made under the Housing Acts in dealing with insanitary dwellings but further efforts are needed in order to ensure a satisfactory standard of housing throughout the District.

The sewerage and sewage disposal schemes at Hatfield Heath and Hatfield Broad Oak were both completed and put into service during 1937.

A new Public Mortuary and Post-mortem Room were also completed in Dunmow during the year.

Work on the new Sewage Disposal Works and the extensions to the sewerage system at Felsted is still in progress.

Schemes for sewage disposal works and sewerage systems at Takeley and Stebbing and a scheme for remodelling the existing sewage works at Dunmow have been submitted to the Ministry of Health for approval.

The comprehensive water scheme for the district has made good progress during the year and portions of the new system are already in service.

Extensions to the Herts. and Essex Water Company's mains have now been completed.

I wish to thank the Members of the Council for their help and support and the Council's Officers for their valued co-operation during the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

J. HATTON.

Vital Statistics of District for 1937 and previous Years.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.			DEATHS.										Natural Increase (excess of Births over Deaths.)
		NETT.			TRANSFERABLE.					NETT.					
		Number.	Rate.	Rate. England and Wales.	Total Registered in the District.	of Non-residents registered in the District.	of Residents registered in the District.	Under 1 year of Age.			At all Ages.				
								No.	Rate per 1,000 nett Births.	Rate Eng-land and Wales.	No.	Rate.	Standardised Rate for comparison With E. & W.	Rate E. & W.	
1926	14,800	228	15.4	17.8	133	4	47	9	39	70	176	11.8	9.1	11.6	52
1927	14,940	210	14.0	16.7	162	3	47	10	47	69	206	13.7	10.6	12.3	4
1928	15,370	217	14.1	16.7	170	1	42	14	66	65	211	13.7	10.6	11.7	6
1929	15,510	244	15.7	16.3	160	5	67	17	69	74	222	14.3	11.1	13.4	22
1930	15,510	201	12.9	16.3	144	3	60	6	29	60	201	12.9	10.0	11.4	—
1931	15,700	263	16.7	15.8	171	5	61	7	26	66	227	14.4	11.2	12.3	36
1932	15,960	225	14.1	15.3	169	6	66	9	40	65	229	14.3	11.1	12.0	4
1933	16,140	226	14.0	14.4	144	1	62	17	75	64	205	12.0	9.3	12.3	21
1934	16,058 †16,081	226	14.0	14.8	138	6	70	15	66	57	202	12.5	9.8	11.8	24
1935	16,170	224	13.8	14.7	133	4	82	9	40	57	211	13.0	10.2	11.7	13
1936	16,100	239	14.8	14.8	159	0	74	11	46	59	233	14.4	11.3	12.1	6
1937	16,170	218	13.4	14.9*	144	0	83	6	27	58*	227	14.0	11.0	12.4*	—9

Area of District in }
 Acres (land and } 72,511
 inland water.)

† Adjusted on boundary alterations for calculating rates 1934.
 * Provisional

DUNMOW RURAL DISTRICT.

General Statistics.

Area (in Acres)	72,511
Estimate of resident population, mid-1937	16,170
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1937) according to Rate Books	5,068
Rateable Value	£61,362
Sum represented by a penny rate	£265

SOCIAL CONDITIONS. The main industry in the Rural District is agriculture, though a number of people are engaged at the Bacon Factory and Brewery at Dunmow, the Sweet Factory at Thaxted, and the Sugar-beet Factory (in the season) at Felsted.

Unemployment figures have remained low during 1937.

Vital Statistics.

	Total	M.	F.	
Live Births { Legitimate	211	109	102	} Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 13.4
{ Illegitimate	7	2	5	
Stillbirths	12	5	7	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 52.1
Deaths	227	123	104	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 14.0

Deaths from Puerperal causes :—	No.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
Puerperal Sepsis	1	4.3
Other Puerperal causes	0	—
Total	1	4.3

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	27.5
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate Live Births	28.4
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate Live Births	—

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	41
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	nil

Nett Deaths at the subjoined Ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.

All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2 years	2 and under 5 years	5 and under 15 years	15 and under 25 years	25 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years	65 and upwards.
227	6	3	0	5	2	21	45	145

Causes of Death.

In the Table below the causes of death for 1937 are analysed.

CAUSE OF DEATH.						MALES.	FEMALES.
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Scarlet fever	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Whooping cough	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	10	7
Encephalitis lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	4	1
Other tuberculous diseases	...	...	...	...	...	1	3
Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	...	...	18	23
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
Cerebral hæmorrhage	...	...	...	...	...	5	11
Heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	22	20
Aneurysm	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Other circulatory diseases	...	...	...	...	...	9	3
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	7	3
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	6	7
Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Peptic ulcer	...	...	...	...	...	3	1
Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Cirrhosis of liver	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Other diseases of liver, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	...	...	3	1
Acute and chronic nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	2	4
Puerperal sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Other puerperal causes	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Congenital debility, premature birth, malformations, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	3	3
Senility	...	...	...	...	...	6	2
Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
Other violence	...	...	...	...	...	8	2
Other defined diseases	...	...	...	...	...	9	11
Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
TOTALS						123	104
						227	

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various ages under 1 year.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Under 1 week.	1—2 weeks.	2—3 weeks.	3—4 weeks.	4 weeks and under 3 months.	3—6 months.	6—9 months.	9—12 months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
Congenital debility and malformation } Premature birth }	3	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	6
Totals ...	3	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	6

General Provision of Health Services.

Public Health Officers.

For list see Page 2.

The Medical Officer of Health is also Medical Officer of Health for the Urban Districts of Braintree and Witham and the Rural District of Braintree and Assistant Medical Officer to the Essex County Council.

Laboratory Facilities.

The laboratory service is provided by the County Council and is carried out by the Counties Public Health Laboratories, London. The following figures indicate the use made of this service by the medical practitioners of the district.

SPECIMEN.	NUMBER EXAMINED.
Diphtheria	83
Sputa	31
Typhoid	0
Ringworm	0
Miscellaneous	17
Total	131

Ambulance Facilities.

A motor ambulance belonging to the District Council is available for all types of cases, and is adequate for the needs of the area. Co-ordination of ambulance services in this part of the County of Essex has been secured by a reciprocal arrangement between the various ambulance authorities in Dunmow and the adjoining districts.

Nursing in the Home.

This service is undertaken by the Essex County Nursing Association and is very satisfactory.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

These are provided by the Essex County Council. The following revised list gives details of present arrangements :—

Child Welfare.

Dunmow	New St. Schoolroom	1st and 3rd Friday in each month.	2.30 p.m.
Eastons and Tilty	Village Hall, Gt. Easton	4th Friday	2.30 p.m.
Felsted	Memorial Hall	2nd Tuesday.	2.30 p.m.
Hatfield Heath	Trinity Hall	4th Friday.	2.30 p.m.
High Easter	Village Hall	2nd Wednesday	2.30 p.m.
Leaden Roding	Old School Hall	4th Wednesday	2. p.m.
Stebbing	Congregational Schoolroom	2nd Friday.	2.45 p.m.
Takeley	Congregational Schoolroom	2nd Monday	2.30 p.m.
Thaxted	Bolford Street Schoolroom	1st Friday.	2.30 p.m.
Braintree	Treatment Centre, Coggeshall Rd.	1st and 4th Monday. Tues- days (except 5th)	2 p.m.

Ante Natal.

Dunmow	New St. Schoolroom	1st Friday.	10 a.m.
Felsted	Memorial Hall	4th Tuesday	2.30 p.m.
Braintree	Treatment Centre, Coggeshall Rd.	1st and 3rd Wednesday.	2 p.m.

Women's Welfare.

Braintree	Treatment Centre, Coggeshall Rd.	1st and 3rd Wednesday.	10 a.m.
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Minor Ailments.

Dunmow	47, Stortford Rd.	By appointment	
Braintree	Treatment Centre, Coggeshall Rd.	Tuesday.	10 a.m.

Eye Clinic.

Braintree	Treatment Centre, Coggeshall Rd.	Monday.	10 a.m.
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Dental Clinics.

Dunmow	47, Stortford Rd.	By appointment	
Braintree	Treatment Centre, Coggeshall Rd.	2nd and 4th Thursday.	10 a.m.

Orthopædic Clinics.

Braintree	Treatment Centre, Coggeshall Rd.	Wednesdays.	2 p.m.
Saffron Walden	69, High Street	4th Tuesday.	10 a.m.

Tuberculosis Dispensary.

Braintree	Treatment Centre, Coggeshall Rd.	Wednesday.	11.30 p.m.
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Mental Treatment.

Chelmsford	General Hospital, London Road	Wednesday	2.30 p.m.
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Venereal Diseases.

Chelmsford	General Hospital, London Road	Friday.	11 a.m.
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Hospitals.**VOLUNTARY.**

The General Hospitals in Braintree, Chelmsford, Bishop's Stortford and Saffron Walden admit patients from the Dunmow Rural District. There is a small Cottage Hospital at Hatfield Broad Oak.

PUBLIC.**ISOLATION HOSPITAL.**

The Isolation Hospital at Dunmow provides accommodation for 22 patients. A scheme prepared by the Essex County Council under Section 63 of the Local Government Act, 1929, is still

under consideration. The object of this scheme is to centralise the work of existing Isolation Hospitals in larger and more up-to-date institutions. It is proposed to provide a modern Isolation Hospital at Braintree to serve the Braintree, Dunmow, Halstead and Saffron Walden Districts.

In anticipation of this scheme the Dunmow Isolation Hospital was closed during 1937 and arrangements have been made for the treatment of infectious cases from the Dunmow District in the Isolation Hospitals at Braintree, Chelmsford and Saffron Walden.

At present the Medical Officer of Health has no official status at the Braintree Isolation Hospital although he is responsible for the admission of patients there. This is an anomaly which should be corrected if the new hospital is constructed there as it is important that the Medical Officer of Health should be in direct control of the Isolation Hospital.

SMALLPOX HOSPITAL.

The Essex County Council and the Borough of Colchester have provided a new Smallpox Hospital at Mile End, Colchester. Cases of smallpox from the Dunmow Rural District will be removed to this hospital for treatment.

P.A.C. HOSPITALS.

Patients are admitted from the Dunmow District to the Hospital wards of the P.A.C. Institutions at Braintree, Chelmsford, Bishop's Stortford and Saffron Walden.

MATERNITY.

The maternity block attached to the Chelmsford Institution is available for cases from Dunmow. A maternity ward of 10 beds at the William Julien Courtauld Hospital, Braintree, is under construction.

Mortuaries.

A new mortuary and post-mortem room at Dunmow were completed during 1937.

Legislation in Force.

The following were adopted and came into force during 1937.

Byelaws for securing the improvement of Housing Conditions.

Byelaws relating to premises of Hairdressers and Barbers.

Byelaws relating to the external appearance of new buildings.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

WATER.

Work on the comprehensive water scheme for the District is still proceeding. The water tower at Gussets and the mains which supply the parishes of Barnston, Little Dunmow, Felsted and Stebbing were finished and brought into use during 1937. It is expected that the remainder of the scheme will be completed during the summer of 1938.

GREAT DUNMOW.

Supplies from this waterworks were extended through the new mains to Barnston, Little Dunmow, Felsted and Stebbing. 25,650,000 gallons of water were pumped during the year which is equivalent to approximately 19 gallons per head per day of the population served.

THAXTED.

During the year supplies from this waterworks were extended by means of the new mains to the several adjoining parishes. The quantity of water pumped amounted to 6,300,000 gallons which represents a consumption of $12\frac{1}{2}$ gallons per head per day.

FELSTED.

Supplies from this waterworks were taken at intervals during 1937 in order to augment those pumped from the Dunmow Waterworks. This source will shortly be abandoned altogether. The total water pumped was 2,100,000 gallons, equivalent to 19.9 gallons per head per day.

HATFIELD BROAD OAK.

GREAT & LITTLE HALLINGBURY.

These parishes which include Hatfield Heath, are supplied with water by the Herts. and Essex Waterworks Company. Extensions of the Company's mains amounting to 8 miles were completed during 1937.

The Public piped water supplies of the District are controlled by chemical and bacteriological examination. Samples are submitted for analysis at least twice each year.

Reports on samples examined by Dr. Beale the Bacteriologist for Essex during 1937 are given below.

During 1937 120 new connections were made to the Council's mains and 70 new connections were made to the mains of the Herts. and Essex Water Company.

Water Analyses.

(Drs. Beale and Suckling).

Date of Analysis, 14/12/37.

Sample from GREAT DUNMOW PUBLIC SUPPLY.

Chemical Results in Parts per 100,000.

Appearance	...	...	...	Clear and bright.
Colour	...	...	...	Normal Odour none
Reaction pH	...	...	...	Neutral 7.1 Free Carbonic Acid 0
Electric Conductivity at 20° C				715
Total Solids, 180° C	...	...		47.5
Chlorine in Chlorides			...	4.0
Nitrogen in Nitrates	...	...	Nil	Nitrites absent
Hardness : Permanent		...	5.5	
Temporary		...	28.5	
Total	...	...	34.0	
Metals	...	...	...	Absent
Free Ammonia	...	...	0.0120	Ammoniacal Nitrogen Nil
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	0.0016	Albuminoid Nitrogen Nil
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 80° F.	...	...	...	0.0100

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULT.

No. of Bacteria per c.c. or ml.

On Agar in 3 days at 20° C. —

1 day at 37° C. 0

2 days at 37° C. 0

The Bacillus Coli Present in— Absent in 100 c.c.

Bacillus Welchii Present in— Absent in '—

REPORT :—

This is a clear and bright water, of normal colour and of neutral reaction. The water contains no excess of saline matter, is free from metals, hard in character, and of good organic quality.

Bacteriologically it is of the highest degree of purity.

It is a pure and wholesome water, suitable for drinking and domestic purposes,

Date of Analysis, 14/12/37.

Sample from THAXTED PUBLIC SUPPLY.

Chemical Results in Parts per 100,000.

Appearance	...	...	...	Bright, very few Mineral particles
Colour	...	...	...	Normal Odour none
Reaction pH	...	...	...	Neutral 7.3 Free Carbonic Acid 0
Electric Conductivity at 20° C				555
Total Solids, 180° C	...	...		37.0
Chlorine in Chlorides			...	1.9
Nitrogen in Nitrates	...	...	...	Nil Nitrites absent
Hardness : Permanent			...	5.0
Temporary			...	23.0
Total	...	...	...	28.0
Metals	...	...	...	Iron—0.01
Free Ammonia	...	...	...	0.0016 Ammoniacal Nitrogen Nil
Albuminoid Ammonia		...	...	0.0016 Albuminoid Nitrogen Nil
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 80° F.	...	...	...	0.0150

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS.

No. of Bacteria per c.c. or ml.

On Agar in 3 days at 20° C. —

1 day at 37° C. 7

2 days at 37° C. 7

The Bacillus Coli ... Present in— Absent in 100 c.c.

Bacillus Welchii ... Present in— Absent in—

REPORT :—

This is a bright water containing a few particles of mineral matter in suspension. It is of normal colour, neutral reaction and hard in character. The water contains no excess of saline matter, is free from metals, with the exception of a negligible trace of iron and is of good organic quality.

Bacteriologically it is of the highest degree of purity. It is a pure and wholesome water, suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

Date of Analysis, 14/12/37.

Sample from FELSTED WATERWORKS.

Chemical Results in Parts per 100,000.

Appearance	...	...	...	Bright, very few mineral particles
Colour	...	...	...	Normal Odour none
Reaction pH	...	...	...	Neutral 6.9 Free Carbonic Acid 0
Electric Conductivity at 20° C				985
Total Solids, 180° C	...	...	...	65.5
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	...	...	5.2
Nitrogen in Nitrates	...	...	...	1.40 Nitrites absent
Hardness : Permanent	...	...	...	18.5
Temporary	...	...	...	28.5
Total	...	...	...	47.0
Metals	...	...	...	Absent
Free Ammonia	...	...	...	0.0020 Ammoniacal Nitrogen Nil
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	0.0026 Albuminoid Nitrogen Nil
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 80° F.	...	...	...	0.0250

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULT.

No. of Bacteria per c.c. or ml.	
On Agar in 3 days at 20° C.	—
1 day at 37° C.	1
2 days at 37° C.	1
The Bacillus Coli	... Present in— Absent in 100 c.c.
Bacillus Welchii	... Present in— Absent in—

REPORT :—

This is a bright water containing a few particles of mineral matter in suspension. It is of normal colour, neutral reaction and very hard although not of such a degree as to be detrimental to health. The water contains no excess of saline matter, is free from metals, and of good organic quality.

Bacteriologically it is of the highest degree of purity.

It is a pure and wholesome water, suitable for the purposes of public supply.

Date of Analysis, 21/12/37.

Sample from HATFIELD BROAD OAK SAUSAGE
FACTORY.

Chemical Results in Parts per 100,000.

Appearance	...	...	...	Clear and bright
Colour	...	...	...	Normal Odour none
Reaction pH	...	...	...	Neutral 7.4 Free Carbonic Acid--
Electric Conductivity at 20° C				630
Total Solids, 180° C	...	...	...	42.0
Chlorine in Chlorides			...	2.6
Nitrogen in Nitrates	...	...	...	0 Nitrites absent
Hardness : Permanent			...	6.0
Temporary			...	28.0
Total	...	...	...	34.0
Metals	...	...	...	Absent
Free Ammonia	...	...	...	0.0014 Ammoniacal Nitrogen Nil
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	0.0000 Albuminoid Nitrogen Nil
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 80° F.	...	...	...	0.0000

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULT.

No. of Bacteria per c.c. or ml.

On Agar in 3 days at 20° C. 0

1 day at 37° C. 2

2 days at 37° C. 9

The Bacillus Coli ... Present in— Absent in 100 c.c.

Bacillus Welchii ... Present in— Absent in—

REPORT :—

This is a clear and bright water, of normal colour, neutral reaction and hard in character. The water contains no excess of saline matter, is free from metals and of the highest degree of organic and bacterial purity.

It is a pure and wholesome water, suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

WELLS AND SPRINGS.

During 1937 rainfall was normal and there was an improvement in the water supplies from shallow wells and springs. It was still necessary however to cart water for drinking purposes in part of the Parish of Thaxted and in the Parish of Great Easton.

During the year the state of the public wells was investigated. A report is given below.

Parish.	Source of Public Supply.	Failed.	Been depleted.	Been maintained
Aythorpe Roding ...	1 Well in Chalky Clay ...	—	—	Yes
Barnston ...	1 Public Spring—Gravel ...	—	—	Yes
Broxted ...	5 Public Wells ...	—	—	4 Wells
Chickney ...	No Public Wells ..	—	—	—
Felstead ...	Waterworks and 2 Wells	—	—	Yes
Great Canfield ...	2 Public Wells ...	—	—	Yes
Great Easton ...	4 Public Wells in use ..	—	—	Yes
Great Hallingbury...	3 Public Wells ...	—	—	Yes
High Easter ...	2 Public Wells ..	—	—	1 Well
High Roding ..	2 Public Wells ...	—	—	Yes
Leaden Roding ...	No Public Well ...	—	—	—
Lindsell ...	No Public Well ...	—	—	—
Little Bardfield ...	1 Public Well ..	—	—	Yes
Little Canfield ...	1 Public Well in Sand ...	—	—	Yes
Little Dunmow ...	1 Public Well ...	—	—	Yes
Little Easton ...	1 Public Well ...	—	—	Yes
Little Hallingbury...	No Public Wells ...	—	—	—
Magaret Roding ...	1 Public Well ...	—	—	Yes
Stebbing ...	1 Public Well ...	—	—	Yes
Takeley ...	6 Public Wells ...	—	—	Yes
Tilty ...	1 Public Well ...	—	—	Yes
White Roding ...	1 Public Well ...	—	—	Yes

A Table shewing the rainfall recorded by the Council's Sanitary Inspectors at the Council House, Dunmow, is given on page 35 of the Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

GREAT DUNMOW SEWAGE WORKS.

These works were designed to treat 50,000 gallons of sewage per day. The average dry weather flow is approximately 60,000 gallons daily and the effluent from the works has not been satisfactory. A scheme for enlarging and modernising the works has been prepared and is under consideration. When enlarged the works will be capable of treating 75,000 gallons of sewage daily. During 1937 a high level sewer was completed which relieves the Adams lift at these works.

FELSTED.

The flow to these works is approximately double that which they were constructed to treat. The work of modernising these works and extending the sewers to Felsted School and Felsted Factory was commenced during the year but is not yet completed.

THAXTED.

The capacity of this disposal works is 22,000 gallons per day and the flow is estimated to be 16,500 gallons per day. The works continued to give a satisfactory effluent despite trouble experienced in the filter beds.

HATFIELD BROAD OAK.

During the year the construction of the sewers and sewage disposal works in Hatfield Town and Hatfield Heath was completed. At Hatfield Town 113 houses were connected with the new system and at Hatfield Heath 123 houses were connected.

Elsewhere in the Rural District 69 properties were connected with the public sewers.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Pollution of rivers exists at the following places :—

River Chelmer	Duton Hill, Great Easton, Little Easton.
Pincey Brook	Takeley.
Stebbing Brook	Stebbing Village Felsted Village and Felsted School, Disposal Works.

The District Council have under consideration sewerage schemes for the parishes of Stebbing and Takeley.

Closest Accommodation.

See Report of Sanitary Inspector. Pages 29, 30 and 32.

Public Cleansing.

There is a weekly collection of household refuse by motor vehicle in operation throughout the district. See Report of Sanitary Inspector. Page 31.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

See Report of Sanitary Inspector. Pages 29 and 30.

Shops.

See Report of Sanitary Inspector. Page 32.

Smoke Abatement.

See Report of Sanitary Inspector. Page 32.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no Public or Private Swimming baths or pools in the District.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

No cases of bug infestation were reported during 1937.

Houses which were found to be infested with bed bugs would be freed from these pests by fumigation with hydrogen cyanide gas where practicable.

Where necessary, before removal to Council houses the belongings of tenants would be freed from vermin by fumigation with hydrogen cyanide in the infested houses or in special vans during the course of removal.

The work would be carried out by contractors under the supervision of the Council's Sanitary Officers; and on completion of the work independent tests would be applied by the Council's Officers to ensure that the houses or effects were free from dangerous concentrations of the gas.

No measures by way of supervision or education of tenants to prevent infestation or re-infestation after cleansing were taken during the year.

Schools.

The general conditions, sanitation and water supplies of the public elementary schools of the District are satisfactory. See also the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector page 32.

The School Medical service is provided by the County Council and is carried out in Dunmow by a full-time Medical Officer, working in co-operation with the Medical Officer of Health.

Infectious disease is controlled by the exclusion of individual children as far as possible but during 1937 the closure of the following schools was necessary.

Little Canfield, 2 weeks in January for an outbreak of measles.

Lindsell, 10 days in January for an outbreak of influenza.

Takeley, 2 weeks in May for an outbreak of measles.

Broxted, 2 weeks in October for an outbreak of measles.

Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers prosecuted (4)
FACTORIES ... (Including Factory Laundries)	4	—	—
WORKSHOPS ... (Including Workshop Laundries)	53	—	—
WORKPLACES (Other than Outworkers' Premises)	—	—	—
Total ...	57	—	—

Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of offences in respect to which Prosecutions were instituted (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :</i>				
Want of cleanliness	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Want of ventilation				
Overcrowding				
Want of drainage of floors				
Other nuisances				
Sanitary Accommo- } insufficient				
dation } unsuitable or defective				
not separate for sexes				
<i>Offences under the Factory & Workshop Acts :</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bake-house (s. 101)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other offences				
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921.)				
Total				

Outwork in unwholesome Premises, Section 108 ... Nil.

Housing.

The work of inspecting working class dwellings under the Housing Acts has again made very satisfactory progress. At the close of 1937 Official Representations had been made to the District Council in respect of a total of 613 houses as follows:—

Year.	Housing Act, 1936. Section 25.	Housing Act, 1936 Section 11.
1935	—	14
1936	310	87
1937	131	71

101 of the 441 houses represented under Section 25 were subsequently dealt with under Section 11 by the District Council. During the same period a total of 156 demolition orders under Section 11 had been made and clearance orders in respect of a total of 148 houses have been confirmed by the Minister of Health made up as follows:

Year	Houses in Confirmed Clearance Orders.	Demolition Orders.
1935	—	34
1936	12	25
1937	136	97
	—	—
	148	156
	—	—

During 1937 undertakings to repair were accepted in the case of 65 houses out of the total of 212 houses.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	724
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	745
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	724
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose	724
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	212
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	462

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES :—

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 19

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR :—

A.—*Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—*

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 0

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners 0

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners 0

B.—*Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—*

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 0

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners 0

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners 0

C.—*Proceedings under Sections 11, and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—*

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 97

(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 15

(3) Number of written undertakings accepted 65

D.—*Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—*

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made 0

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit 0

HOUSING ACT, 1936 (PART IV)—OVERCROWDING :—

(a)	i	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	65
	ii	Number of families dwelling therein ...	65
	iii	Number of persons dwelling therein ...	466
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	1
(c)	i	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	17
	ii	Number of persons concerned in such cases	115
(d)		Number of cases in which dwelling houses again became overcrowded after the Local Authority had taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	0

NUMBER OF HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR :—

(1)	By the Rural District Council	72
(2)	By private enterprise	54
	Total	<u>126</u>

Inspection and Supervision of Food.**MILK SUPPLY.**

The premises concerned in the production or sale of milk are inspected regularly and samples taken for bacteriological and biological examination.

The consumption of milk has increased of recent years, but at 2/5 pint per head daily, it is still too low in this country. An all round increase to about 1 pint daily is very desirable and will result in improved national and individual health and fitness.

The nutritive value of milk cannot be stressed too often. Milk is unique among foods and is of especial value to growing children. It is more than a food in the ordinary sense as it contains important body building and protective elements. In virtue of these milk promotes growth and health and protects those who drink it from disease. Milk, must, however, be safe, that is, it must be free from active bacterial infection which may cause disease in human beings.

The public cannot enjoy the maximum benefits of milk drinking until all milk which is consumed is safe. At the present time this is not the case and illness can result from the drinking of unsafe milk.

The problem can be solved by one of two methods.

1. Providing a safe supply at the source and thereafter protecting it from contamination. The difficulties of providing a universally safe raw milk supply are enormous and for economic reasons alone it is impracticable to do so now. The official machinery for improving milk at the source is continuously at work and has produced excellent results but at present Tuberculin Tested milk is the only milk which can be recommended for consumption without treatment.

2. Treatment which will ensure that all milk is safe before it is consumed. Treatment can be applied to supplies either by pasteurisation or by boiling. Pasteurisation is largely practised on a commercial scale and when efficiently carried out renders milk safe and does not lower its value to any material extent. Boiling on the other hand does modify the nutritive value of milk but should be resorted to whenever supplies of Tuberculin Tested or Pasteurised milk cannot be obtained. See also Report of Chief Sanitary Inspector. Page 33.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Routine inspection of meat, slaughterhouses, shops and places where food is prepared is carried out by the Council's Sanitary Inspectors. Details of this work are given in the Sanitary Inspector's Report on pages 33, 34 and 35.

There are 15 private slaughterhouses in the Rural District most of which are small. During 1937 100.0 per cent. of the animals slaughtered for human food were inspected. This figure is a high one in the circumstances and is very satisfactory. The work, however, makes heavy demands on the ordinary time of the Sanitary Inspectors as well as on Sunday and outside normal office hours. It is estimated that this service costs £300 annually.

The provision of a central abattoir under the Council's control and the closing of private slaughterhouses in the District would simplify the work of meat inspection. Supervision of the work in a number of private slaughterhouses is never as satisfactory as it is in a central abattoir and there are few civilised countries in which this system of private slaughterhouses is still allowed. Some modification of the existing law on this subject appears, however, to be necessary before the abolition of private slaughterhouses can be general. The cost, including the cost of compensation which is involved at present, is heavy.

ADULTERATION.

Action taken under the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928, the Artificial Cream Act, 1929, the Public Health (Condensed Milk) Regulations, 1923 and 1927, the Public Health (Dried Milk) Regulations, 1923 and 1927, and the Public Health (Preservatives, etc. in Food) Regulations, 1925 to 1927.

This work is undertaken by the County Council.

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

This work is carried out by the Essex County Council and the samples submitted are examined by Dr. Dyer, the County Analyst.

NUTRITION.

Information on this subject is given at the schools, clinics and welfare centres in the district.

National Health Campaign.

During the last three months of the year active propaganda with regard to physical fitness and the health services has been carried out. Posters have been exhibited, cards and bills have been displayed in schools, halls, clinics and places of public resort. Pamphlets and other literature has been distributed. A considerable amount of public interest has been aroused and it is proposed to continue the campaign during the early months of 1938. A Health Week has been arranged in Braintree at the end of January, 1938.

Air Raid Precautions.

Proposals have been submitted to the District Council for providing casualty services in the event of an attack. These include first aid and cleansing posts, auxiliary ambulances, first aid parties, decontamination of clothing and storage of respirators. The St. John's Ambulance Brigade have undertaken the training of the voluntary personnel required to man most of these services. The schemes on paper are well advanced but are not effective at present owing to lack of trained personnel. Numbers of volunteers have come forward for the work but several hundreds more are needed at least. The main objects of Air Raid Precautions are to avoid panic and prevent the casualties which might arise as a result of lack of knowledge and training on the part of the civil population. It has been stated that one person in thirty should be trained in the work, but it would be better to regard each family as the unit and arrange for the training of one member of it so that each household could be to some extent independent of outside help and advice in an emergency.

SHELL FISH.

There are no shell fish beds or layings in the Rural District. Shell fish which are marketed in the District are obtained mainly from layings on the Essex Coast.

Prevalence of and control over Infectious Disease.

Forty cases of infectious disease (other than tuberculosis) were notified during the year. Details of these are given in the adjoining table. There have been no cases of meningococcal meningitis. Three cases of diphtheria were notified.

The incidence of scarlet fever was higher than it was in 1936 and the number of cases notified was above the average of the past 10 years. The disease generally was mild in type and serious complications were rare. While the present mild form of the disease is prevalent "missed cases," that is cases where the infection is unrecognised, inevitably arise and these patients acting as intermediaries or carriers may spread the disease, possibly in more severe form to others. For this reason removal of all notified cases of scarlet fever to the Isolation Hospital proves to be less effective than might be expected in checking the spread of scarlet fever infection.

As far as possible cases of scarlet fever should be isolated at home and the admission of cases to the isolation hospital should be limited to those which would generally fall into the following categories :—

Insufficient or unsuitable accommodation at home for isolation and treatment.

Severe type of illness or complications necessitating hospital treatment.

Lack of nursing facilities at home owing to illness of parents or other causes.

Occurrence of a case in a house adjoining business or public premises and particularly those where milk is produced or handled.

Cases where the head of the home would lose wages if nursing at home were insisted on.

There were two cases of puerperal pyrexia notified in 1937. Neither of these cases were traced to carriers of haemolytic streptococci.

No cases of dysentery or malaria occurred in the Rural District during the year. Eleven cases of pneumonia were notified none of which presented any unusual features,

The Dunmow Isolation Hospital Authorities have been unable to admit cases of measles and whooping cough as a routine owing to limited accommodation. It is important, therefore, that the new Isolation Hospital which is planned under Section 63 of the Local Government Act shall include adequate provision for the treatment of cases of measles and whooping cough when it is necessary. The mortality from these diseases and their complications is unfortunately more serious than is generally recognised.

Intimation of illness and disease are received from the schools and acting on this information the exclusion of individual children or the closure of schools or school departments is arranged by the Medical Officer of Health when necessary.

Influenza, measles, chicken pox and whooping cough were prevalent in the Rural District during the year. Details of the measures taken to control infection in the schools are given on page 18. No action has been taken at special clinics in the District to provide artificial immunization against diphtheria and none has been taken in regard to the use of measles serum for prophylaxis.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) NOTIFIED DURING 1937.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.													TOTAL NUMBER OF DEATHS.	
	At all ages	At ages—years.											CASES ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL.		
		Under 1 year	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65			65 and over
Scarlet fever	21	..	2	1	..	13	3	..	1	..	1	..	..	18	..
Diphtheria	3	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	1
Pneumonia	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	3	3	3	..	2	13
Erysipelas	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	40	..	2	1	..	14	3	1	5	6	5	3	22	14	..

Prevention of Blindness.

No action has been taken by the District Council under Section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925, for the prevention of blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes. This work is undertaken in the District by the Essex County Council.

Tuberculosis.

No action has been taken during 1937 under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade or under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925, relating to the compulsory removal to a hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

Particulars of the new cases of tuberculosis reported in 1937 and of deaths from the disease, in this area, are set out in the table below.

Age-Periods. (years)	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 to 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 „ 5	—	—	2	1	1	—	—	1
5 „ 10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 „ 15	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15 „ 20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 „ 25	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 „ 35	3	3	1	1	3	—	1	1
35 „ 45	2	3	—	1	—	1	—	—
45 „ 55	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
55 „ 65	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Totals ...	9	8	5	4	4	1	1	3
	26				9			

The percentage of deaths of unnotified cases is 22·2 per cent.

ANNUAL REPORT OF CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

The Council House,
Great Dunmow,
Essex.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present to you my annual report of the work of my department during the year 1937.

I submit below a statement of the work carried out :—

Complaints received	...	...	...	...	...	95
Inspections and re-inspections	...	...	...	...	...	5923
Nuisances detected	...	...	...	...	...	95
Informal notices served	...	...	...	...	...	95
Notices outstanding 1st January	...	...	...	...	...	245
Notices outstanding 31st December	...	...	...	...	...	226
Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	69
Legal Proceedings	...	...	...	...	...	1
Convictions	...	...	...	...	...	1
Work carried out by Council (Sect. 36 P.H.A. 1875), etc.	...	...	...	...	...	0
Overcrowding discovered	...	...	...	...	...	1
Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	...	17
No. of Dwellings overcrowded at end of year	...	...	...	...	...	65
Filthy houses cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	4
Privies converted to W.C.'s	...	...	...	...	...	10
Privies converted to E.C.'s	...	...	...	...	...	1
E.C.'s converted to W.C.'s	...	...	...	...	...	23
Hand-flushing W.C.'s provided with waste water preventors	...	...	...	...	...	13
Additional closets to old property	W.C.'s	...	...	...	...	1
	Pail closets	...	...	...	...	1
Approximate No. of privies	...	...	...	...	...	1272
" " " Pail closets	...	...	...	...	...	2142
" " " Flushing W.C.'s	...	...	...	...	...	1226
" " " Hand-flushed	...	...	...	...	...	526
House drains repaired or relaid	...	...	...	...	...	44
Water certificates granted	...	...	...	...	...	131
" " " deferred	...	...	...	...	...	0
Houses disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	41
Schools disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	0
Bedding, Parcels of, disinfected by Steam	...	...	...	...	...	5

PREMISES OR OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS OR REGULATIONS, and further details of the inspection of these are given in the following Table.

Regulated Buildings Trades, etc.	No. in District	No. In- spected	Total No. of Inspec- tions	Notices served	Notices Complied with	Legal Proceed- ings
Common Lodging Houses	1	1	8	Nil	Nil	Nil
Bakehouses ...	18	18	36	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cowsheds ...	98	98	145	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other dairies & milkshops	5	5	15	Nil	Nil	Nil
Slaughter Houses	15	15	60	Nil	Nil	Nil
Knacker's Yards	2	2	6	Nil	Nil	Nil
Offensive Trades	0	0	0	Nil	Nil	Nil

Closet Accommodation.

In the table at the beginning of the report the approximate number of various types of Closets in the District, is stated. Below is a table of the various types found in the Houses inspected under the Housing Act in 15 parishes :—

Parish	W.C.'s & Fl.	W.C.'s no Fl.	Pail Cl.	Earth Cl.	Cess- pits	Chemical
Gt. Dunmow ...	388	—	80	—	26	—
Lt. Easton ...	6	6	34	—	16	—
Gt. Easton ...	—	12	57	3	25	—
Hatfield Broad Oak ...	35	1	177	22	23	18
Hatfield Heath ...	68	—	89	2	6	5
Lt. Hallingbury ...	12	2	118	16	3	3
Gt. Hallingbury ...	11	1	84	16	3	11
Broxted ...	—	—	54	1	24	—
High Roding ...	1	2	67	1	24	1
Thaxted ...	97	90	49	2	27	2
Takeley ...	6	2	121	28	34	11
High Easter ...	—	—	73	4	22	—
Tilty ...	—	—	11	2	4	—
Stebbing ...	10	1	163	5	35	9
Felsted ...	85	19	168	3	32	3
	719	136	1345	105	304	63

Grand Total 2,672.

In the following hamlets closets in the conservancy system exist and schemes of sewerage and sewage disposal should be considered without delay :—

High Roding
 High Easter
 Great Easton, including Duton Hill
 Little Hallingbury
 Little Easton
 Little Dunmow
 Causeway End, Felsted.
 Bannister Green, Felsted.

Public Cleansing.

No change in the arrangements for the collection of House Refuse was made during the year, the scheme being carried out by direct labour.

During the year the scheme was extended to include :—

Hartford End, Felsted.
 Cutlers Green, Thaxted.
 Coopers End, Takeley.

The total number of bins collected during the year was 185,732, representing an estimated tonnage of 1,608 tons.

The cost of collection was 9/11.3d. per ton.

Disposal took place at Great Dunmow tip.

The cost of disposal by controlled tipping was at the rate of 3/7.21d. per ton.

Thus the total cost of collection and disposal was 13/6.51d. per ton. The Refuse Lorry is of 7 cubic yard capacity and I find in operating the scheme that a vehicle of this size has definite limitations in a Rural District owing to the length of the haul to the tip, and the vehicle should be replaced with one with a 15 cubic yard capacity body fitted with a means of compression of the refuse.

The provision of a new lorry received the Council's consideration and it was decided to purchase an 11 cubic yard vehicle.

The provision of proper sanitary dust-bins is proceeding slowly.

There is no provision by the Council for the cleansing of cesspools.

Schools.

The following table shows the Sanitary Accommodation and Water Supply at the various schools in the District :—

		CLOSET	WATER SUPPLY
Aythorpe Roding		Pails	Pump
Little Bardfield		—	—
Barnston		Pails	Pump
Broxted		Trough Closet	Pump
Great Canfield		—	—
Little Canfield		Pails	Pump
Chickney		—	—
Great Dunmow	1. Church	W.C.'s	Main
	2. Council	W.C.'s	Main
Little Dunmow		Pails	Pump
Great Easton		Pails	Public pump
Little Easton		Pails	Pump
Felsted		Pails	Pump
Great Hallingbury		Pails	Pump
Little Hallingbury		Pails	Pump
Hatfield Broad Oak (Town)		Pails	Main
	(Heath)	Pails	Main
High Easter	2 Schools	Pails	Pump
High Roding		Pails	Pump
Leaden Roding		—	—
Lindsell		Pails	Pump
Margaret Roding		Pails	Pump
Stebbing		Pails	Pump
Takeley		Pails	Pump
Thaxted		W.C.'s	Main
Tilty		—	—
White Roding		Pails	Pump

Housing.

During the year 140 interviews and discussions with owners regarding some 450 properties took place.

Shops Act, 1934.

Thirty-three Shops were inspected during the year, and 33 Exemption Certificates were granted where the lavatory accommodation was not in the shop.

Smoke Abatement.

Complaints of nuisances from Felsted Beet Sugar Factory were dealt with informally and the nuisance abated.

Milk Supply.

During the year 145 visits were paid to cowsheds and during the year 72 samples of milk were taken for examination for cleanliness.

No samples were taken for biological examination.

The present staff is inadequate to deal with this work whilst the Council's Housing Drive is being maintained.

Two Producers were licenced to produce Tuberculin Tested Milk.

Thirty-one Producers were licenced to produce accredited milk under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

Ice-Cream.

Details of action under Essex County Council Act, 1933.

The majority of Ice Cream sold in this district is manufactured elsewhere and sold from containers with a self contained freezing agent or refrigerator.

Two Applications to manufacture were granted.

Inspection of Meat and Other Foods.

All slaughter-houses, shops, stalls, vehicles, and places where food is prepared are inspected.

The percentage of meat inspection prior to distribution for human consumption was 100%.

Ante-mortem inspection is not undertaken.

The following table sets out a record of the inspection of meat killed within the district :—

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle, ex- cluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	651	21	138	2136	33,829
Number inspected ...	651	21	138	2136	33,829
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis.</i>					
Whole carcasses con- demned	1	—	1	3	57
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	3	2	—	3	10,068
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than T.B. ...	·614	9·525	·724	·28	29·93
<i>Tuberculosis only.</i>					
Whole carcasses con- demned	—	—	—	2	69
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	1	—	—	2,233
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	—	4·762	1·45	·093	6·804

The following table gives the weight of meat and other foods condemned as unfit during the year :—

Cattle, whole or in parts	816 lbs.
Sheep	196 lbs.
Pigs	77,748 lbs.
Corned Beef	6 lbs.
Rabbits	114 lbs.
Total	78,880 lbs.

Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919.

No formal action was necessary under this Act during the year.

Infectious Disease.

During the year, the following houses were disinfected :—

After cases of	Scarlet Fever	23
„ „ „	Diphtheria	5
„ „ „	Tuberculosis	3
„ „ „	Erysipelas	1
„ „ „	Cancer	2
„ „ „	Measles	1
„ „ „	Septic Pneumonia	1
„ „ „	Enteric Fever	2
„ „ „	Dermatitis	1
„ „ „	Chicken Pox	2
No. of Parcels of bedding disinfected by steam at the Isolation Hospital		5

RAINFALL.

(Recorded at the Council House, Great Dunmow), 1937.

January	2.53 inches
February	2.60 „
March	2.640 „
April	2.709 „
May	1.57 „
June	1.30 „
July	2.20 „
August	.95 „
September	1.67 „
October	2.29 „
November	1.85 „
December	2.91 „
Total	25.219 „

Number of rainless days during 1937 was 175.

The heaviest fall recorded during 1937 was .88 on the 15th July, 1937.

The longest rainless period during 1937 was 9 days in August.

In conclusion I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the members of the Council and your officers for their valued assistance during the year,

I am,

Your obedient servant,

H. B. GARDNER,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

